

ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

September 14, 2021

Approved 10/12/2021

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order for its online virtual meeting via Zoom on Tuesday September 14, 2021 at 7:00pm.

Commission Members: Jen Rothenberg, Phil Lasker, Scott Walker, Sarah Carrier and Shirley Canniff. Recreation Director Joe Connelly was also present.

Anticipated Speakers: Whitney Roberts, Juro Mukal, Ali Carter

Members of the Public:

Preliminary Matter: Phil Lasker, Park & Recreation Commission Chair, took formal attendance via a roll call. Mr. Lasker read a statement pertaining to Governor Baker's Public Meeting Law change due to COVID-19 regarding virtual meetings. Meeting business ground rules and procedures were also covered by Mr. Lasker.

Open Forum – Public Comment

N/A

Correspondence Received: Menotomy MB Trail Building & Equity in Park Planning

Businesses in Parks – Various letters of support

Bicycles on Paths – M. Ratner

Toys in Playgrounds – L. McKillop

Magnolia Concerts – J. Twarog

Bishop Playground – W. Simmons

Recommended to Extend Temporary Outdoor Fitness and Art Program

Ms. Carter reviewed the proposal for extending the existing program until 11/1. Mr. Connelly stated that he would support through the first snowfall. The Commission discussed the success of this program and their support but did state that it could not be indefinite and would need to be monitored. Ms. Canniff motioned to approve the extension as amended, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg, and the motion was approved 4-0.

Town Wide Playground – Accessibility Project Update

Mr. Connelly asked that the Commissioners try to complete their assigned reviews of the playgrounds by the end of the month. Mr. Lasker asked some clarifying questions as to accessible seating and low play components. Mr. Connelly and the Commission discussed these issues.

Bench Request

Mr. Connelly reviewed the bench request for Robbins Farm from Kristin Szopa. The Commission approved the bench request on a motion from Ms. Rothenberg, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 4-0.

Capital Projects Update

Mr. Connelly provided updates on the following capital projects:

Reservoir Phase II Site Work Project

Mr. Connelly reviewed updated from the project stating that the project is well on schedule for the 12/31 substantial completion

ADA Path Summer Street Complex

Mr. Connelly reviewed the project stating that expected completion is within two weeks.

FY 23 Requests and FY 23 – FY 27 Priorities

Mr. Connelly reviewed the current process for capital and cpa requests and reviewed the Commission's request to these bodies for an annual minimal sum so that an accurate plan could be established. Mr. Lasker stated that in the meeting with capital and CPA it was requested that capital pay for all playground renovations (school and town) and cpa cover the other requests.

Mr. Connelly reviewed the current priorities.

- FY 23 – Robbins and Hurd Phase 2
- FY 24 – Menotomy, Mountain Biking, Poets Complex
- FY 25 – McClennen Skate Board, Thorndike OLRA
- FY 26 – Crosby, Parallel, Turkey Hill
- FY 27 – Cutter, Pheasant (Stratton), Thorndike Field
- FY 28 – Bishop, Summer Street

The Commission discussed the priorities and sensitivity around changing around projects. The Commission discussed moving up the Bishop School project. Mr. Connelly suggested performing a feasibility study and conceptual plan for Bishop so that we have accurate numbers to work with if we decide to move the project in FY 24. The Commission agreed that Robbins and Hurd Phase 2 should remain our FY 23 CPA requests. Ms. Carrier and other commissioners asked to see a draft of the rfp for the study.

Public Hearings

Mr. Lasker and Mr. Connelly reviewed the upcoming public hearings for Hurd Field, Hills Hill Mountain Biking, and Poets Corner Field.

Approval of Minutes – 5/25/21, 8/10/21

The minutes were tabled.

Comments and Items for Future Meetings

- a) Menotomy Request to Extend Off-Leash Hours in the Woods Discussion on How to Approach Public Input & Next Steps -9/28
- b) Fishing Line in our Parks – 9/28

- c) Robbins Farm Learning Garden Accessibility Report – 9/28
- d) Invasive Control Policy – 9/28
- e) Arlington Belmont Crew Proposal
- f) Carry In, Carry Out Trash Policy Discussion
- g) Unauthorized Trail Building Discussion

Other

Ms. Rothenberg expressed frustration with some of the current uses in the parks and the lack of Commission knowledge and/or approval. Mr. Connelly agreed that this was becoming an issue. Ms. Rothenberg suggested a press release through the local paper. Commissioners will look for potential assistance in this area.

Ms. Canniff made the motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and motion was approved, at 9:05pm.

The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Joseph Connelly.